

lots in Maryville, SC directly across the Ashley river from the Citadel, South Carolina's Military College.

During this time in Charleston's history, banks did not lend money to African Americans to construct buildings, consequently the membership created a building fund. Each member was assessed a proportionate share of the cost of constructing the building now known as the Owls' Roost.

The historical impact of this organization was proven throughout the 20th century as this group of African American men overcame the racial nature of South Carolina. During its founding and throughout its development, the Owls' Whist Club members experienced numerous indignities and adversities, including numerous lynchings by vigilantes and several legislative actions by the SC House of Representatives that relegated African American citizens to a second-class existence.

This club has given African American men of Charleston a place to socialize and strategize for 100 years. Its membership has always included a variety of occupations and when they meet on November 26 to celebrate this milestone they will do so with members and guests from every background and sets of experiences that is possible to gather under one roof, and holding fast to history and tradition, among their membership will be one barber.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the Owls' Whist Club on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. I commend its members for continuing a much-needed tradition. Their perseverance and tenacity are appreciated by a grateful community.

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HONORING DANIEL J. RIDER

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel J. Rider. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Daniel J. Rider for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING FORMER POW DARRELL STARK OF STAFFORD SPRINGS, CONNECTICUT

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**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Darrell Stark, 92, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Mr. Stark, a veteran of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment and former prisoner of war of the Empire of Japan in World War II, recently returned from a historic trip to Japan he and six other former POWs, accompanied by their family members, were guests of the Japanese government last month on a trip of reconciliation and remembrance.

Mr. Stark was 17 when he joined the Army in 1941, and was immediately sent to the Philippines where he was assigned to a heavy weapons company as a weapons carrier and runner. He participated in the defense of the Bataan peninsula, where despite disease, lack of supplies and obsolete weapons, he and his fellow defenders were able to fight the Japanese to a four-month standstill. Despite their efforts, however, Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942. Mr. Stark was taken prisoner and over the course of the next three years was held in various prisons and camps in the Philippines, forced into labor and suffering extremely harsh and difficult conditions. After being liberated in September 1945, Mr. Stark returned home for treatment, eventually settling in Connecticut where he worked for the Department of Corrections and spoke often to students about his role in the defense of the Philippines.

Between October 11 to 20, Mr. Stark and six of his fellow POWs were guests of the Government of Japan as part of the fifth American POW Friendship delegation to visit Japan. This delegation included members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, and Marines who fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Their trip was part of an ongoing reconciliation process that began in 2010 when the Japanese government delivered to the first American POW delegation an official Cabinet-approved apology for the damage and suffering these men endured.

As part of the delegation, Mr. Stark was able to travel to his former POW camp in Yokkaichi near Kyoto. The managers of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha (ISK), the company that controlled the camp, not only received him warmly, but honored him. ISK is now a multi-national chemical company with operations in the United States and one of only a handful of companies that have apologized to POWs forced into labor.

This once in a lifetime trip for Mr. Stark was made possible through the hard work of many people, including the U.S. State Department and the Government of Japan. While coming to terms with the past is undoubtedly difficult for our American survivors and the Japanese people, it is my hope that our two nations will continue to work together to sustain and improve efforts such as this to provide reconciliation with our shared history, provide closure to our POWs and their families, and build stronger relations for the future.

NATIONAL INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

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**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Crohn's and Colitis patient community in observance of National Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Awareness Week. As the Co-Chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, I have enjoyed working with my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW to raise awareness of and improve access to treatments for IBD.

Our caucus has worked to champion funding for IBD research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This has led to accomplishments like the identification of the first gene linked to Crohn's Disease (NOD/CARD15), which will lead to better treatments and a cure for IBD, and the discovery of Remicade, the only biologic drug for treatment of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

We have also been strong advocates for the IBD Epidemiology program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program yields invaluable information about the prevalence of IBD in the US and expands our knowledge about the demographic characteristics of this vulnerable population. The data derived from this study will not only provide an analysis of the etiology of the disease, but could also explain why the course of illness varies among individuals and what environmental or treatment factors improve patient outcomes.

While there is currently no known cure for IBD, we can already see the importance of Congress's continued support of IBD research. National IBD Awareness Week offers the opportunity to build upon our efforts for the Crohn's and Colitis patient community.

I have been honored by the opportunity to lead the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, and I urge my colleagues to speak out in support of IBD research efforts and to raise awareness for IBD.

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HONORING SHEIKH MOUSSA DRAMMEH

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**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Though Sheikh Drammeh has a varied professional portfolio ranging from entrepreneurial development to e-commerce, his dedication to improving the access and opportunities available for members of the African community can be seen in all of his endeavors. Most notably, Sheikh Drammeh founded HalalFinder.com, which is the first online halal auction market of its kind. This platform was established in order to ensure that providers and consumers alike would have an interactive service market space that would allow

them access to goods that were previously virtually unavailable.

Beyond his dedication to improving access for residents of the African community, it is clear that Sheikh Moussa Drammeh has a passion for fostering peace and understanding throughout our communities. Sheikh Drammeh currently serves as the Principal and Founder for the Islamic Leadership School in the Bronx, which remains as the first, and only, Islamic school in The Bronx. This school is also one of only four schools in New York City that established the "Interfaith Living Museum," where Jewish students and Muslim students participate in a yearly cultural exchange curriculum in efforts to promote a global, long term peaceful co-existence. Sheikh Drammeh has also helped establish the Community Peace Patrol Officers, which are a group of community volunteers who have dedicated themselves to patrolling high crime areas in efforts to make them safer and more livable for all residents. This program not only encourages local residents to take an active role in maintaining the safety of local neighborhoods, but also works to foster better relationships between community members and local law enforcement.

Today, Sheikh Drammeh serves as Executive Producer of the African Union Profile and Public Emergency Management Adherence television programs on Bronxnet Television network, and is the founder of Adopt-A-Friend, which is a non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting peace and dialogue among all individuals for a healthy co-existence.

Each of the aforementioned projects and programs speaks to the complete nature of Sheikh Moussa Drammeh's dedication to improving the quality of life for residents throughout The Bronx, as well as his undying commitment to fostering camaraderie and understanding among residents. I am proud to say we have someone like Sheikh Moussa Drammeh living in our community, and am very grateful for all the work he has done, and continues to do to improve our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his consistently remarkable dedication to peace and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

#### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the establishment of the VA clinic in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Nov. 11, 2000]

#### FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING A VA MEDICAL CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS UNDERWAY

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that a technical team will be in American Samoa from November 13th-17th to set up and test telecom connections for the veterans enrollment plan scheduled for early December.

This is an important moment for our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said. And

it is an important moment for American Samoa. Establishing an accurate method for enrolling our veterans is the first step in establishing a VA medical clinic in American Samoa. The purpose of the technical teams visit is to ensure that all systems are go when the VA team arrives to enroll our veterans in early December. Congressman Faleomavaega also explained that the teams visit is part of a collective effort between his office, ASG, and the VA offices in Honolulu and American Samoa.

I want to thank Governor Tauese for his commitment to our veterans. I also want to thank the Governors Special Assistants on Veterans Affairs, High Chief Tuiteleleapaga Fua Ioane, President of the Veterans Advisory Council, and High Talking Chief Paogofie Fiaigoa, Veterans Affairs Officer, Congressman Faleomavaega said. We are working together to ensure that our veterans receive top-notch health care and benefits. We are working together to ensure that every veteran in American Samoa counts and that no one is left behind. We will not be satisfied with the process until every veteran in Samoa is accounted for and enrolled in the system.

I have also been working with Senator Akaka, a senior member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Congressman Lane Evans, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Both gentlemen are fully supportive of our efforts to establish a VA medical clinic with a full-time physician in the Territory. The technical teams planned visit for the week of November 13th is the first step in our collective effort to establish the process that may lead to the construction of our own facility.

Congressman Faleomavaega also noted that Federal law requires an accurate accounting and enrollment of veterans before any consideration can be made to establish a VA medical clinic. It is incumbent upon every veteran living on island to take part in the enrollment process. If we want a clinic with a full-time physician, every veteran must participate. Congressman Faleomavaega said. I strongly urge all veterans on island to participate and enroll when the time comes.

For now, the technical team, headed by Dr. Norman Okamura, will visit Fagatua, Tafuna, Leone and Samoana High Schools to confirm facility arrangements for enrollment activity. According to Congressman Faleomavaega, the team will also confirm the VAs clinical patient record system server configuration and network requirements.

The technical team plans to meet with LBJ and Health Department officials to consider the registration process and to discuss the IHS data system. During this time the team will also be working closely with Johnny Mapu, PTSD Coordinator for the office of Veterans Affairs. Provided all systems are go, the VA enrollment team will arrive in American Samoa during the week of December 4th to begin the enrollment process.

[Press Release, Feb. 14, 2004]

#### CARES COMMISSION AGREES WITH FALEOMAVAEGA; VA CLINIC SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission released its report yesterday and agreed that a Veterans community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa.

The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20

years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve.

On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA.

The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which is next to our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further segregated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by the end of this year.

Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC) and Dr. Weibe, Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 21 have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately \$1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa and over 1,000 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoan veterans have made in defense of this nation and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have one doctor, one nurse, one clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable recommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa.

Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars. Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoas CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations.

I also asked for American Samoas CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans,